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and cabins having been built on their several farms, they were reluctantly obliged to abandon their favourite village, to which they long had clung with all the inherent fondness, which attaches human nature to our native soil; or has their patriotism been extinguished, as they yet frequently visit its dear remains, and on the ruins of Blackstaff, still celebrate their ancient sports and pastimes."

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON TEA.

"Gentle tea, that smells like new-won hay."

THERE are few, if any, of the necessities or luxuries of life, of which the use has increased so much within the last 200 years, as that of tea. At the tables of both the wealthy and poor, the increase has been very remarkable, so much so, that this article, which, within the above-mentioned time, scarcely made its appearance, even in our custom-house books, now forms an important article in the revenue, paying, before it arrives on our tables, upwards of eighty per cent.

In the present age, the increase of its use has been very conspicuous; about sixty years ago, it was only drank by persons in the higher ranks of life; and within my memory, which falls short of that time, if those who were in pretty comfortable circumstances, used it on a Christmas morning, Easter-sunday, or the unexpected visit of a friend, the outer door was sure to be secured, lest their neighbours should know of such an extraordinary feast. Even on those occasions, little respect was paid to what is termed elegance, by our modern tea-parties; the tea-kettle being rare, the tea was usually boiled in a common iron-pot, and sometimes poured forth in the common vessels

of the kitchen. At present, the scene is completely reversed, the doors of the lower order are rather thrown open on those occasions, that the neighbours may witness their good cheer; and even in the obscure hamlet, few are without their tea equipage, which usually forms the most striking object in the cupboard, or on the shelf.

Tea was first introduced into this kingdom about 1636; in 1680, it was drank mixed with milk or cream, and in 1687, many persons smoked it like tobacco. By a computation taken about 16 years ago, it was supposed that 18 or 20,000,000 lbs. weight was consumed annually in Great Britain and Ireland, since which time, its use is certainly on the increase. The exports from Great Britain to other countries is also pretty considerable; in 1809, £.714,989 worth was exported, by the custom house's returns, beside that by smugglers, which is supposed to amount to a considerable sum.

Part of the cheap teas are believed to be factitious; formerly they were said to be more so than at present. In 1724, 1730, and 1776, the legislature passed several acts against this practice, which had then increased to a great degree. The leaves said to have been used in this manner, were those of the ash and aloe, both being boiled and dried; the leaves of other plants have been used lately for the like purpose; the deception is not easily discovered by the eye, after they have undergone the processes of boiling, drying, and beeling.

Many treatises have been written on the qualities of tea, some of which endeavour to prove, that it debiliates the constitution; this perhaps may be true, as far as it respects the cheap teas used by the poorer classes, but it is more than

probable the evil effects, if any, proceed no further, for it is notorious, that many persons, remarkable for longevity, have regularly drank tea.

A late author says, it has a tendency to preclude the more prevalent, and certainly more mischievous and malignant passion, for vicious or spirituous stimulation. I believe there is some truth in the above observation, as I never have known drunkards much attached to its charms—for charms it has as well as the bottle, and I believe it will be generally acknowledged, of a much more innocent kind.

B. Clare.

S.S.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF RECOVERY, AND FEVER HOSPITAL, IN CORK-STREET, DUBLIN, FOR THE YEAR ENDING THE 4TH JANUARY, 1812.

THE Committee have now to lay before the Subscribers and the Public, the state of the Hospital, and its accounts for the year ending 4th January, 1812. It will appear, from a comparison between this statement, and that for the preceding year, that the admissions have been 296 less in the past year than in the former one, though many more than they were prior to the great extension of disease that occurred in the summer of 1810, and which was noticed in their last report. The great increase of expence remains in consequence of the demands for admissions to the hospital continuing, and the expenditure will be found to exceed the income by the sum of £ 806 15s. 9d., part of which being for completing new buildings, may not be expected soon to recur, and it is hoped the income

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will be so increased as to meet the deficiency.

The committee think it advisable to repeat, that no recommendation is necessary, to entitle to admission, but applications for admission must be left at the letter-box, at the eastern entrance to the hospital, before half-past nine o'clock in the morning, in order that the applicants may be visited by the extern physician in such time, as that those whose diseases are ascertained to be fit for admission, may be brought to the hospital on that day. It is the rule of the house, that no patient can be admitted until visited by one of the physicians of the hospital, nor in any other manner, than in the hospital carriage, which is on springs, and the patients are placed therein, on a bed, in a recumbent posture.

Cork-street, 30th January, 1812.

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Admitted, from 14th May 1804, to | |
| 4th January, 1812, inclusive, - | 9195 |
| Discharged, cured, - | 8389 |
| Died, - - - - - | 740 |
| Remain in Hospital, 5th | |
| January, 1812, - - | 66 |
| | <hr/> 9195 <hr/> |

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| In the Hospital, 5th January, 1811 | 38 |
| Admitted, from 5th January, 1811, | |
| to 4th January, 1812, inclusive, - | 1478 |
| | <hr/> 1516 <hr/> |

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Discharged, cured, - - | 1337 |
| Died, - - - - - | 113 |
| Remain in Hospital, 5th | |
| January, 1812, - - | 66 |
| | <hr/> 1516 <hr/> |

MEDICAL REPORT.

The existence of febrile contagion, and the susceptibility of almost all mankind, if placed within its sphere of action, to be affected by its baleful influence, being no longer

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